

# English Holly

## Local Priority Weed

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, all landholders have a "General Biosecurity Duty" to manage any "Biosecurity Risk" posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. These weeds can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability of our City and the environment. Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality.

### MANDATORY OUTCOME

The plant should be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

#### Scientific name

*Ilex aquifolium*

(Family: Aquifoliaceae)

#### Description

Habit: An evergreen large shrub or tree.

Leaves: Dark green, glossy and very spiky leaves.

Flowers: Flowering spring through to early autumn. Flowers are small, whitish and sweetly scented.

Fruit: Bunches of bright red berries in winter.



Photo source: P. Christmas



Photo source: BMCC Bushcare

**Dispersal**

Spread by birds and in dumped garden waste. Holly also spreads by suckering and layering.

**Impacts**

Holly forms dense stands, excludes native plants.

**Current distribution**

Upper Mountains.

**Control**

Because the berries are bird spread, treat plants before they fruit. Cutting the plant without poisoning will not work because it suckers and coppices (grows multiple shoots from the stem once cut). Leaving fragments of root or stem can also allow the plant to regrow.

- Hand dig small seedlings if you can get all of the roots.
- For juvenile plants, scrape and paint, making sure that you scrape at least 1/3 of the length of the stem.
- On larger plants, scrape two sides of the stem. Apply the herbicide carefully and immediately on the scraped area, using an applicator bottle.
- For plants that have a stem diameter of 40 mm or more at the base, stem inject trunks. For plants taller than 2.5 m, either lop off the top half or inject a second ring about half way up.
- Any exposed roots can also be scraped and painted or injected.

**Note:** Check for layering branches. These can be cut and painted. Treat each stem with roots as a separate juvenile plant.

Make sure all cut branches or stems are placed securely above the ground, particularly if the area is moist, because the plant can sucker where it touches the ground.



Hand Removal



Cut and Paint



Stem Inject

**Plant this instead**

Bird attracting natives, screening shrubs and small trees such as Banksia, Grevillea, Hakea, Bottlebrush, Wattles and Tea Trees.

*Control illustrations by Virginia Bear.*



NEW SOUTH WALES  
**WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM**

For more information on weed identification, control methods, herbicide use and weed contractors see:  
Blue Mountains City Council - Bushland Operations Team | <http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds> | Phone: 4780 5000

**BLUE MOUNTAINS - NO PLACE FOR WEEDS**